

TRAVEL *Writing*

Leromi Publishing

SECTION I

AN INTRODUCTION TO TRAVEL WRITING

The introduction offers five chapters that provide the reader with a strong initial understanding of travel writing. In chapter one, “The Exciting World of Travel Writing,” the reader discovers why travel writing is exciting, why it is a field that many aspire to, and why most active travel writers would never trade their vocation for any other. It explains the many different hats (roles) of travel writers and it provides eleven different kinds of travel writing a person entering the field can choose as a specialty.

The second chapter, “Toward a Definition of Travel Writing,” helps the reader to get a handle on just what travel writing is all about. It provides a historical overview of travel writing and gives the reader a map of the world of travel writing.

The third chapter is an introduction to some parameters of travel writing. This chapter helps the reader more easily identify what travel writing is and what it is not.

The fourth chapter is a history of travel writing. Here the reader learns how the field started in a relatively narrow framework or set of guidelines. Then it shows how travel writing has exploded in both the

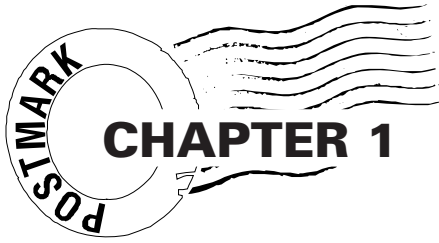
volume of articles and books published on travel and in the scope of what those in the field consider to be travel writing.

The fifth chapter brings the reader up-to-date. It identifies issues, but it concentrates on where travel writing is today—and where it seems to be going.

These five chapters should help to provide the “setting” for travel writing so that the student of the field or the aspiring travel writer will have a better understanding of what professionals in the field mean when they say they do travel writing.



JIM POYNTER has authored or coauthored seven travel books, with his first book being published in 1969. He has also written numerous articles for both trade and consumer magazines, and, for two years, he authored a weekly travel column for a major international newspaper. He has been a full-time faculty member at Metropolitan State College in Denver for twenty-three years and has taught travel writing courses in the continuing education programs of the University of Texas–Austin and the University of Wisconsin–Madison. As this book goes to press, Poynter is scheduled to teach travel writing courses in the continuing education programs of California State University–San Bernadino and Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.



The Exciting World of Travel Writing

James Poynter

Travel writing can be an exotic, exciting, and adventuresome way of life. Experienced travel writers can and frequently do take one international trip after another. This week you might trek across Antarctica. After resting a bit, you might find yourself on a luxury cruise between the United States and England. While in Europe, you visit some of the world's top ski resorts, and then it is on to adventures in North Africa, Asia, and South America. This is a life many dream of, but it is a life that travel writers live. As a part-time freelance travel writer, I have worked in more than sixty countries in the world, but my life, although exciting and interesting, pales in comparison with those of some travel writers. Your life becomes what you make it. You can travel almost constantly,

writing as you go, and seeing the best that the world has to offer. Alternatively, if you prefer, you can stay at home most of the time, taking a journey to an exotic part of the world now and then throughout the year, doing most of your actual writing in your office at home. Or you can do anything in between. Many of us turn down far more trip offers than we take—simply because there isn't time to do it all. But isn't it nice to be able to choose to travel or not to travel, to decide where you want to go and what you want to write about?

Travel writing is unlike any other kind of writing, because most travel writers do a lot of traveling. In just a few years, the chances are good, if you are a travel writer, that you will have flown on many kinds of jets, prop planes, and tiny two- or three-seat planes; trekked in countries on just about every continent; ridden on horses, camels, donkeys, elephants, and a variety of other animals; sailed the seas in luxury cruise ships, yachts, houseboats, barges, ferries, dhows, and many other sea-going craft; traveled on a variety of trains and in a wide variety of vehicles; and traversed the globe in many other ways as well.

YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN

Sound exciting? It is. And this exciting occupation can be yours. It really is an attainable lifestyle for just about anyone over eighteen years old, in reasonably good health, and with a reasonably good education. It takes setting your mind to it and taking the steps needed to accomplish it. This book will tell you how to do it, but only you can make it happen. In other words, you have to do it.

A TRAVEL WRITER WEARS MANY HATS

Many travel writers chafe at the fact that they can't just write. They say, "I am a good writer. That's all I want to do." But the system is not set up that way. As a freelance travel writer, you do need to write. After all, writing is what you sell. But if you are to make a good living as a travel writer, you will need to sell a substantial amount of travel writing. And that requires you to be more than just a writer.

Businessperson, Salesperson, Bookkeeper, and Office Manager

Successful travel writers also are businesspeople. After all, if you don't sell what you write, you will just be a traveler who likes to write and